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EO 12958: N/A My accession: 18 JUN 24 Initials: RL

Title: BIOGRAPHY OF GEN. CORNELIUS H. HODGES

Date(s): 13 JUN 1945

Call: 239.293 Volume: N/A

IRIS: 481888

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COURTNEY HICKS HODGES

Courtney H. Hodges was born at Perry, Georgia, on January 5, 1887, and served as a cadet in the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, in 1904-1905. He enlisted in the Regular Army on November 5, 1906, and served for three years as private, corporal, and sergeant of the 17th Infantry at Fort McPherson, Georgia. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry on November 13, 1909.

He was promoted to first lieutenant on July 1, 1916; to captain on May 15, 1917; to Major (temporary) on June 7, 1918; and to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on October 31, 1918. He reverted to his permanent rank of captain on February 13, 1920, and was promoted to major on July 1, 1920; to lieutenant colonel on October 1, 1934; to colonel on October 1, 1938; to brigadier general on April 1, 1940; to major general on May 31, 1941. He was invested with the rank of lieutenant general on February 16, 1943; to general (temporary) on April 15, 1945.

SERVICE

He served until March 1916, successively, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; San Antonio, Texas; in the Philippine Islands; and at El Paso, Texas. From March 1916 to February 1917, he was on duty with General Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico as an officer of the 6th Infantry.

After training with the 6th Infantry in Southern camps, he sailed for France with that regiment in the spring of 1918. He participated with his regiment, a unit of the 5th Division, in the occupation of the Anould, St. Die, and Villers-en-Haye Defensive Sectors in Lorraine in June - September 1918; in the St. Mihiel Offensive of September 1918; and in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of October-November 1918. After the Armistice he participated in the advance of the American troops toward the Rhineland, and prior to his return to the United States in the summer of 1919, saw service in Germany, Luxembourg, and again in France.

After his return to the United States he served at Camp Gordon, Georgia, with the 6th Infantry until September 1919. In 1920 he entered the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and upon graduation he was assigned to duty at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. Relieved from duty at West Point in the summer of 1924, he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to enter the Command and General Staff School, from which he was graduated in June 1925.

He was then ordered to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was an instructor at the Infantry School until June 1926, when he was transferred to Langley Field, Virginia, as the Infantry Instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School from which assignment he was relieved in the summer of 1929. After his next service which was at Fort Douglas, Utah; with the 38th Infantry from August to November 1929, he was ordered to Fort Benning, Georgia, as a member of the Infantry Board, on which assignment he continued until August 1933, during which period he was also Captain of the Infantry Rifle Team at Camp Perry, Ohio.

From August 1933 to June 1934 he was at the Army War College in Washington, D. C., and upon graduation he was ordered to Vancouver Barracks, Washington, where he served until May 1936, as Executive Officer of the 7th Infantry and later as Executive Officer of the 5th Infantry Brigade and the Vancouver District of the Civilian Conservation Corps. For two years beginning in May 1936, he was on duty at the Headquarters of the Philippine Department, Manila. In August 1938, he reported for duty at Fort Benning,

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Georgia, as Assistant Commandant of the Infantry School. In October 1940 he was appointed Commandant of the Infantry School. In March 1941 he was assigned to the office of the Chief of Infantry, Washington, D. C., becoming Acting Chief of Infantry. He was appointed Chief of Infantry in May 1941 and in March 1942 he was assigned to Birmingham, Alabama, to become Commanding General of the Replacement and School Command of the Army Ground Forces. He later became Commanding General of the X Army Corps.

He was assigned to the command of the Third Army, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in February 1943, and served in this capacity until March 1944, when he was assigned to the European Theater of Operations, where it was announced that he subsequently was placed in command of the First Army in France.

DECORATIONS

For his services with the American Expeditionary Forces, World War I, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the citation for which reads as follows:

"He personally conducted a reconnaissance of the Meuse River to determine the most advantageous location for a crossing and for a bridge site. Having organized a storming party, he attacked the enemy not 100 paces distant, and although failing, he managed to effect the crossing of the canal, after 20 hours of ceaseless struggling. His fearlessness and courage were mainly responsible for the advance of his brigade to the heights east of the Meuse."

He was also awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Offensives.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1944, with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in positions of great responsibility as Commanding General, Replacement and School Command, and as Commanding General X Corps. General Hodges organized the Replacement and School Command initially, displaying sound judgment, professional skill, untiring initiative, and devotion to duty. As a result, the replacement training centers and schools of the Army Ground Forces were organized and expanded so as to meet fully the needs of the Army. General Hodges organized the X Corps initially and established its new units on a sound and progressive basis of development and training, to the great advantage of our war effort."

He was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster for the Distinguished Service Medal in November 1944, with the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility, from June 6, 1944, to September 14, 1944. As Deputy Commanding General and later as Commanding General, First United States Army, Lieutenant General Hodges by masterful leadership of United States troops, drove the enemy from Normandy, across France to the Seine and thence to Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the borders of Germany. During these fast-moving operations, General Hodges' command has benefited by his farsighted conception of the tactical moves necessary to out-manuever the enemy, knowledge of his own troops, and ability to foresee and plan for every eventuality of the campaign. The outstanding successes of the First Army under his direction demonstrate the high quality of the service of Lieutenant General Hodges to the United States of America."

On May 13, 1945, he was awarded the Russian Order of Souvaroff, First Class.

WAR DEPARTMENT - Up to date as of 13 June 1945

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